



AAFC Brandon Wheat and Oat Field Tour, July 31, 2015

A large number of invitations were sent out for the first wheat and oat field tour to be held in recent years at the AAFC Brandon Research Centre. July 31st was a perfect day, weather-wise, with just enough breeze to keep the mosquitos away. Sixty-eight guests attended, representing the millers, seed marketers, provincial government reps, Brandon University and producers.

We started with registration in amongst the Breeder Isolations, where advanced lines are grown in head rows for purification before being advanced to Breeder Seed and potential Variety Registration. We also showcased one of our new nursery row planters and a small plot combine. These drew quite a bit of interest from the producers, who are more familiar with the huge air seeders and combines used on commercial farms.

Next, we stopped at the new, irrigated Early Generation Disease Nursery (which was lost in the flood of 2014), where there was a very good infestation of Fusarium Head Blight as well as leaf and stem rust on the wheat. There was also a good level of oat crown rust and stem rust on the oat breeding material. Fortunately, there were resistant lines that will be selected for harvest and advancement within the program.

The tour guests were then taken to the yield plots and shown many of the advanced breeding lines compared to the check varieties. We also went through the cultivars being evaluated in the provincial trials. Everyone had lots of questions and interest in the various trials.

The tour was followed by a wonderful pulled pork sandwich and salads lunch, with yummy fruit crisp and ice cream for dessert.

The tour provides a great opportunity for members of the entire value chain to get a look at the breeding material that is moving through the programs at the Brandon Research Centre. It also provides an opportunity to interact with the scientists, producers and industry reps to gain new knowledge about oat and wheat production.

-Jennifer Mitchell Fetch.

(see photos below)



Some of the visiting Oat Industry reps (Jennifer, Bruce Roskens, Dennis Galbraith (retired), Haiyan Jia, Tom Rabaey's shoulder, Gabe Gusmini, Scott Shiels (red shirt), and Paul Richter).



Learning about a Cereal Breeding Program (presented by Dr. Santosh Kumar, Bread Wheat Breeder, with assistance from one of our summer students, Kian).



Touring past the oat isolations.



Dr. Andrew Burt (Hard White Wheat and Parkland Wheat Breeder) explaining evaluation of early generation wheat and oat lines in the irrigated disease nursery (Note that the nursery is NOT flooded this year ☺).



Some of the oat plots (2015 Western Cooperative Oat Registration Trial)



Tour attendees inspecting the oat yield plots (specifically Dr. Weikai Yan's Covered Oat Registration Trial (aka ECORT)).



Jennifer Mitchell Fetch outlining the traits of recently registered cultivars being tested in the 2015 Manitoba Cereal Variety Evaluation Trial.



Lunch!!!